

## **EXHIBIT B**



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Patent and Trademark Department  
D-377/AP6D  
Abbott Laboratories  
100 Abbott Park Road  
Abbott Park, Illinois 60064-6050 USA

Telephone: 847-938-3888  
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April 2, 2001

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

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Brian G. Gore  
6555 Whirlaway Circle  
Orlando, FL 32818

CONFIDENTIAL  
ATTORNEY COMMUNICATION

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Re: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR SUTURING TISSUE  
Abbott Ref. No. 6776.US.C1; TTC Ref. No.: 15508-000150

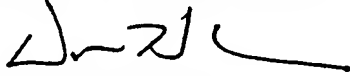
Dear Mr. Gore:

Perclose, Inc., as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Abbott Laboratories, is continuing prosecution of certain aspects of a previously-filed patent application that names you as a joint inventor, along with Bernard Andreas, Michael Barrett, Mark Foley, Lewis Isbell, Ronald Souger and James Vetter. Particularly, a Continued Prosecution Application ("CPA") of the earlier patent application, which is referenced in the header above, has been filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. In order to claim priority to the filing date of the earliest related application that has been filed, however, it is now necessary to include Enrique Klein, T. Daniel Gross and Tomoaki Hinohara as named inventors. A new Supplemental Declaration, which includes all named inventors, therefore is required.

For your convenience and recollection, we have enclosed a copy of the previously-filed patent application. We also have enclosed two Supplemental Declaration forms to be signed by you. Please sign and date the enclosed documents in pen where indicated next to your name. Once signed, please return these documents to me using the enclosed Federal Express envelope. To ensure timely filing of this matter in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please return the signed document no later than April 13, 2001.

In advance, thank you for your continued assistance with this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at my direct number, 847-938-3888.

With best regards,  
ABBOTT LABORATORIES



Daniel J. Hulseberg  
Patent Counsel

Enclosures

cc: James Heslin, Esq.

## SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION

As a below named inventor, I declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: **DEVICE AND METHOD FOR SUTURING TISSUE** the specification of which \_\_\_\_\_ is attached hereto or X was filed on June 26, 1997 as Application No. 08/833,246 and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56. I claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

I claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application No.	Date of Filing	Status
07/989,611	12/10/1992	Issued as 5,417,699
08/252,124	06/01/1994	Issued as 5,613,974
08/259,410	06/14/1994	Issued as 5,779,719
08/824,031	03/26, 1997	Allowed

Full Name of Inventor 1:	Last Name: <b>ANDREAS</b>	First Name: <b>BERNARD</b>	Middle Name or Initial: <b>H.</b>
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			Postal Code: <b>94063</b>

Full Name of Inventor 2:	Last Name: <b>BARRETT</b>	First Name: <b>MICHAEL</b>	Middle Name or Initial:	
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Full Name of Inventor 4:	Last Name: <b>GORE</b>	First Name: <b>BRIAN</b>	Middle Name or Initial:	
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Full Name of Inventor 5:	Last Name: <b>ISBELL</b>	First Name: <b>LEWIS</b>	Middle Name or Initial:	
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Full Name of Inventor 7:	Last Name: <b>VETTER</b>	First Name: <b>JAMES</b>	Middle Name or Initial: <b>W.</b>	
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Full Name of Inventor 8:	Last Name: <b>KLEIN</b>	First Name: <b>ENRIQUE</b>	Middle Name or Initial: <b>J.</b>	
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Post Office Address:	Post Office Address: <b>1686 Christina Drive</b>	City: <b>Los Altos</b>	State/Country: <b>California</b>	Postal Code: <b>94024</b>
Full Name of Inventor 9:	Last Name: <b>GROSS</b>	First Name: <b>T. DANIEL</b>	Middle Name or Initial:	
Residence & Citizenship:	City: <b>Los Gatos</b>	State/Foreign Country: <b>California</b>	Country of Citizenship: <b>United States</b>	
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Full Name of Inventor 2:	Last Name: <b>HINOHARA</b>	First Name: <b>TOMOAKI</b>	Middle Name or Initial:	
Residence & Citizenship:	City: <b>Portola Valley</b>	State/Foreign Country: <b>California</b>	Country of Citizenship: <b>Japan</b>	
Post Office Address:	Post Office Address: <b>40 Los Charros</b>	City: <b>Portola Valley</b>	State/Country: <b>California</b>	Postal Code: <b>94028</b>

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Signature of Inventor 1	Signature of Inventor 2	Signature of Inventor 3
<u>BERNARD H. ANDREAS</u>	<u>MICHAEL BARRETT</u>	<u>MARK J. FOLEY</u>
Date	Date	Date
Signature of Inventor 4	Signature of Inventor 5	Signature of Inventor 6
<u>BRIAN GORE</u>	<u>LEWIS ISBELL</u>	<u>RONALD W. SONGER</u>
Date	Date	Date
Signature of Inventor 7	Signature of Inventor 8	Signature of Inventor 9
<u>JAMES W. VETTER</u>	<u>ENRIQUE J. KLEIN</u>	<u>T. DANIEL GROSS</u>
Date	Date	Date
Signature of Inventor 10		
<u>TOMOAKI HINOHARA</u>		
Date		

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2 Your Internal Billing Reference **CHAD 748810/0377**

3 To Recipient's Name **Jenny Rizzotto** Phone **847-937-6367**

Company **Abbott Laboratories**

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2 Your Internal Billing Reference CHAD 748810/0377

3 To Recipient's Name Brian C Gore Phone 1

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